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WESTERN INFORMATION OFFICE: San Francisco, Calif.

Technical information: (415) 625-2270 BLSinfoSF@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/west

Media contact: (415) 625-2270

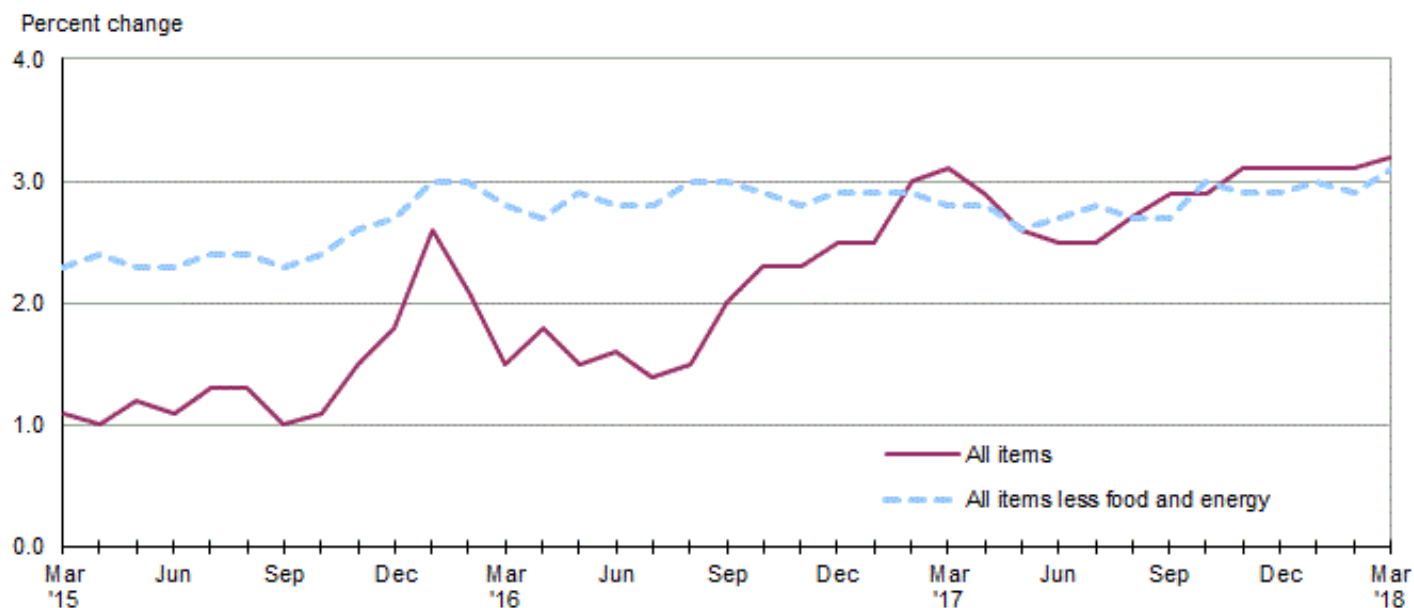
Consumer Price Index, West Region — March 2018

Area prices were up 0.4 percent over the past month, up 3.2 percent from a year ago

Prices in the West Region, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 0.4 percent in March, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A.](#)) The March increase was influenced by higher prices for shelter and gasoline. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U rose 3.2 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A.](#)) Energy prices advanced 7.7 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy advanced 3.1 percent over the year. (See [table 1.](#))

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, West region, March 2015–March 2018



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices increased 0.3 percent for the month of March. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food away from home advanced 0.4 percent, and prices for food at home increased 0.3 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices increased 1.6 percent. Prices for food away from home advanced 3.4 percent since a year ago, and prices for food at home inched up 0.2 percent.

Energy

The energy index increased 1.0 percent over the month. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (1.7 percent). Prices for electricity rose 0.5 percent, but prices for natural gas service decreased 2.5 percent for the same period.

Energy prices advanced 7.7 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (11.2 percent). Prices paid for electricity advanced 4.4 percent, but prices for natural gas service decreased 1.5 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.3 percent in March. Higher prices for used cars and trucks (1.3 percent), recreation (0.7 percent), and shelter (0.4 percent) were partially offset by a lower price for other goods and services (-0.1 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 3.1 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (4.3 percent) and medical care (3.2 percent). Partly offsetting the increases was a price decline in apparel (-0.9 percent).

Table A. West Region CPI-U monthly and annual percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)

| Month | 2013 | | 2014 | | 2015 | | 2016 | | 2017 | | 2018 | |
|-----------------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|
| | Monthly | Annual | Monthly | Annual | Monthly | Annual | Monthly | Annual | Monthly | Annual | Monthly | Annual |
| January..... | 0.3 | 1.7 | 0.3 | 1.7 | -0.3 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 2.6 | 0.5 | 2.5 | 0.5 | 3.1 |
| February | 0.8 | 2.0 | 0.4 | 1.3 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 0.1 | 2.1 | 0.6 | 3.0 | 0.5 | 3.1 |
| March | 0.4 | 1.5 | 0.6 | 1.5 | 0.8 | 1.1 | 0.2 | 1.5 | 0.3 | 3.1 | 0.4 | 3.2 |
| April | 0.0 | 1.3 | 0.3 | 1.8 | 0.3 | 1.0 | 0.5 | 1.8 | 0.3 | 2.9 | | |
| May | 0.2 | 1.3 | 0.6 | 2.3 | 0.8 | 1.2 | 0.5 | 1.5 | 0.2 | 2.6 | | |
| June | 0.1 | 1.5 | 0.1 | 2.3 | 0.0 | 1.1 | 0.2 | 1.6 | 0.0 | 2.5 | | |
| July | 0.0 | 1.9 | 0.1 | 2.3 | 0.3 | 1.3 | 0.1 | 1.4 | 0.1 | 2.5 | | |
| August | 0.1 | 1.5 | -0.1 | 2.1 | -0.1 | 1.3 | 0.0 | 1.5 | 0.2 | 2.7 | | |
| September | 0.2 | 1.3 | 0.1 | 2.0 | -0.2 | 1.0 | 0.3 | 2.0 | 0.5 | 2.9 | | |
| October | -0.1 | 0.9 | -0.1 | 2.0 | 0.0 | 1.1 | 0.3 | 2.3 | 0.3 | 2.9 | | |
| November | -0.4 | 1.3 | -0.6 | 1.7 | -0.2 | 1.5 | -0.2 | 2.3 | 0.0 | 3.1 | | |
| December | 0.0 | 1.8 | -0.5 | 1.3 | -0.1 | 1.8 | 0.0 | 2.5 | 0.1 | 3.1 | | |

The April 2018 Consumer Price Index for the West Region is scheduled to be released on May 10, 2018.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 93 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 29 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 75 urban areas across the country from about 5,000 housing units and approximately

22,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The West Region covered in this release is comprised of the following thirteen states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

| Item and Group | Indexes | | | Percent change from- | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Jan. 2018 | Feb. 2018 | Mar. 2018 | Mar. 2017 | Jan. 2018 | Feb. 2018 |
| Expenditure category | | | | | | |
| All Items..... | 258.638 | 259.986 | 260.994 | 3.2 | 0.9 | 0.4 |
| All items (December 1977=100)..... | 418.073 | 420.252 | 421.883 | | | |
| Food and beverages | 257.656 | 257.552 | 258.422 | 1.6 | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| Food | 257.498 | 257.364 | 258.260 | 1.6 | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| Food at home | 246.729 | 245.834 | 246.683 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.3 |
| Cereals and bakery products | 257.314 | 256.095 | 258.468 | | 0.4 | 0.9 |
| Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs..... | 253.147 | 253.836 | 257.212 | | 1.6 | 1.3 |
| Dairy and related products | 227.833 | 225.991 | 227.306 | | -0.2 | 0.6 |
| Fruits and vegetables | 332.137 | 327.416 | 325.096 | | -2.1 | -0.7 |
| Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials | 170.209 | 170.867 | 169.825 | | -0.2 | -0.6 |
| Other food at home | 212.163 | 211.710 | 212.397 | | 0.1 | 0.3 |
| Food away from home..... | 271.543 | 272.390 | 273.346 | 3.4 | 0.7 | 0.4 |
| Alcoholic beverages | 256.442 | 256.715 | 257.254 | 1.7 | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| Housing | 282.103 | 283.071 | 283.968 | 3.9 | 0.7 | 0.3 |
| Shelter | 324.386 | 325.619 | 326.804 | 4.3 | 0.7 | 0.4 |
| Rent of primary residence(1)..... | 343.295 | 344.082 | 344.503 | 4.4 | 0.4 | 0.1 |
| Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2)..... | 341.404 | 342.157 | 343.115 | 4.4 | 0.5 | 0.3 |
| Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2)..... | 341.401 | 342.156 | 343.116 | 4.4 | 0.5 | 0.3 |
| Fuels and utilities..... | 293.786 | 295.214 | 295.361 | 3.3 | 0.5 | 0.0 |
| Household energy | 250.575 | 251.781 | 251.607 | 3.1 | 0.4 | -0.1 |
| Energy services(1) | 252.135 | 253.481 | 253.156 | 3.1 | 0.4 | -0.1 |
| Electricity(1)..... | 282.727 | 283.732 | 285.080 | 4.4 | 0.8 | 0.5 |
| Utility (piped) gas service(1)..... | 194.772 | 197.169 | 192.315 | -1.5 | -1.3 | -2.5 |
| Household furnishings and operations | 129.937 | 129.828 | 130.039 | 1.0 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| Apparel | 116.516 | 120.338 | 120.474 | -0.9 | 3.4 | 0.1 |
| Transportation | 208.490 | 211.782 | 213.377 | 4.9 | 2.3 | 0.8 |
| Private transportation | 203.570 | 206.681 | 208.246 | 5.4 | 2.3 | 0.8 |
| New and used motor vehicles(3)..... | 99.419 | 100.372 | 100.700 | 0.3 | 1.3 | 0.3 |
| New vehicles | 146.965 | 147.182 | 147.020 | -1.7 | 0.0 | -0.1 |
| New cars and trucks(3)(4) | 102.078 | 102.231 | 102.119 | -1.7 | 0.0 | -0.1 |
| New cars(4) | 143.406 | 143.662 | 143.454 | -2.0 | 0.0 | -0.1 |
| Used cars and trucks..... | 131.703 | 132.834 | 134.616 | 0.7 | 2.2 | 1.3 |
| Motor fuel | 234.327 | 242.672 | 246.796 | 11.2 | 5.3 | 1.7 |
| Gasoline (all types)..... | 233.056 | 241.523 | 245.739 | 11.2 | 5.4 | 1.7 |
| Gasoline, unleaded regular(4)..... | 230.194 | 238.678 | 242.874 | 11.3 | 5.5 | 1.8 |
| Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5)..... | 223.076 | 230.775 | 234.631 | 10.6 | 5.2 | 1.7 |
| Gasoline, unleaded premium(4)..... | 229.790 | 237.552 | 241.566 | 10.6 | 5.1 | 1.7 |
| Motor vehicle insurance(6)..... | 808.172 | 817.530 | 824.374 | | 2.0 | 0.8 |
| Medical Care | 487.607 | 488.655 | 491.089 | 3.2 | 0.7 | 0.5 |
| Medical care commodities | 379.413 | 380.225 | 378.301 | 3.9 | -0.3 | -0.5 |
| Medical care services | 521.556 | 522.677 | 526.583 | 3.1 | 1.0 | 0.7 |
| Professional services | 356.214 | 356.793 | 357.605 | 1.0 | 0.4 | 0.2 |
| Recreation(3)..... | 113.466 | 113.538 | 114.298 | 1.2 | 0.7 | 0.7 |
| Education and communication(3)..... | 136.314 | 135.575 | 135.674 | 0.1 | -0.5 | 0.1 |
| Tuition, other school fees, and child care(6) | 1,383.317 | 1,378.817 | 1,380.942 | | -0.2 | 0.2 |
| Other goods and services | 428.382 | 433.833 | 433.408 | 5.2 | 1.2 | -0.1 |
| Commodity and Service Group | | | | | | |
| All Items..... | 258.638 | 259.986 | 260.994 | 3.2 | 0.9 | 0.4 |
| Commodities | 181.796 | 183.013 | 183.741 | 1.8 | 1.1 | 0.4 |

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

| Item and Group | Indexes | | | Percent change from- | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Jan. 2018 | Feb. 2018 | Mar. 2018 | Mar. 2017 | Jan. 2018 | Feb. 2018 |
| Commodities less food & beverages..... | 144.214 | 145.864 | 146.501 | 1.9 | 1.6 | 0.4 |
| Nondurables less food & beverages | 186.549 | 190.304 | 191.230 | 4.3 | 2.5 | 0.5 |
| Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel | 235.508 | 239.179 | 240.668 | 5.9 | 2.2 | 0.6 |
| Durables | 105.843 | 105.822 | 106.213 | -1.3 | 0.3 | 0.4 |
| Services | 329.818 | 331.260 | 332.527 | 3.9 | 0.8 | 0.4 |
| Rent of shelter(2)..... | 345.360 | 346.684 | 347.957 | 4.3 | 0.8 | 0.4 |
| Transportation services | 309.895 | 314.358 | 315.796 | 6.3 | 1.9 | 0.5 |
| Other services | 346.508 | 347.101 | 348.440 | 1.9 | 0.6 | 0.4 |
| Special aggregate indexes: | | | | | | |
| All items less medical care | 248.172 | 249.529 | 250.474 | 3.2 | 0.9 | 0.4 |
| All items less food | 258.988 | 260.568 | 261.595 | 3.4 | 1.0 | 0.4 |
| All items less shelter..... | 232.916 | 234.313 | 235.254 | 2.5 | 1.0 | 0.4 |
| Commodities less food | 148.364 | 149.990 | 150.630 | 1.9 | 1.5 | 0.4 |
| Nondurables | 222.154 | 224.170 | 225.082 | 2.8 | 1.3 | 0.4 |
| Nondurables less food..... | 191.703 | 195.279 | 196.188 | 4.0 | 2.3 | 0.5 |
| Nondurables less food and apparel..... | 237.208 | 240.553 | 241.950 | 5.5 | 2.0 | 0.6 |
| Services less rent of shelter(2)..... | 346.931 | 348.681 | 350.084 | 3.4 | 0.9 | 0.4 |
| Services less medical care services..... | 316.419 | 317.878 | 318.969 | 4.0 | 0.8 | 0.3 |
| Energy | 244.320 | 249.957 | 252.436 | 7.7 | 3.3 | 1.0 |
| All items less energy | 261.831 | 262.878 | 263.788 | 2.9 | 0.7 | 0.3 |
| All items less food and energy | 263.366 | 264.619 | 265.534 | 3.1 | 0.8 | 0.3 |
| Commodities less food and energy commodities | 139.128 | 139.981 | 140.204 | 0.1 | 0.8 | 0.2 |
| Energy commodities..... | 239.090 | 247.397 | 251.623 | 11.1 | 5.2 | 1.7 |
| Services less energy services..... | 335.602 | 337.056 | 338.416 | 4.0 | 0.8 | 0.4 |

Footnotes

(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(6) Indexes on a December 1977=100 base.

- Data not available

Regions defined as the four Census regions. West includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date. Data not seasonally adjusted.